

Appl. No. 09/488,973

*D'wined*  
about 344°C) and maintained at such temperature for a time of from 15 to 30 minutes. The assembly is then transferred to a forge which is also maintained at a temperature of from about 280°C to about 400°C. The forge is utilized to compress target 50 and backing plate 60 together to a pressure of from about 10,000 psi to about 16,000 psi. After compressing the target and backing plate, the assembly is transferred back to the furnace having a temperature of from about 280°C to about 400°C, and maintained at such temperature for an additional time of from about 10 minutes to about 30 minutes. --

---

**In the Claims**

No changes are made to the claims.